

April 2016 – Mayor’s Message

The Utah Legislature just recently completed the 2016 Legislative Session. I value the relationship Murray has with our legislators and appreciate the time and dedication they give to our community. For 45 days, their lives are consumed by participation in legislative update meetings and community events, serving on various committees, studying bills, and listening and responding to constituents. This year brought a record number of bills for the legislature to consider and over 450 bills had ties to city issues. In all, 475 bills were passed and are now waiting for approval/veto from Governor Herbert.

In Murray, we have three senators: Gene Davis, Jani Iwamoto, Brian Shiozawa, and five representatives: Johnny Anderson (this is his last year), Bruce Cutler, Carol Spaceman Moss, Marie Poulson and Mark Wheatley. They go to bat for us and support us with our issues whenever possible. I view our legislators as community partners and friends. We are fortunate to have such incredible representation on Capitol Hill. I wish I could find the words to properly thank them for all they have done to help our city.

Here are a few of the bills we watched as we felt they impacted our city:

- HB 235/HB180 - sales tax revisions. These bills did not impose a new tax due to the fact that individuals are expected to pay sales tax on their income tax returns. Since only a small percentage actually pay for internet purchases, these bills were to encourage congress to act in support of our brick and mortar stores and level the playing field with those who choose to make online purchases. There were amendments to the bills, but in the end, there just wasn’t enough time for these to be approved this year. Eighteen other states were considering similar legislation, hoping to send a message to the Federal government to act on similar legislation.
- There were many bills this year that pressed land-use ordinances in cities. One we watched very closely was HB 409, nicknamed the short-term rental bill (or AirBnB). This bill was of concern as we felt it challenged our zoning ordinances to determine the appropriate applications for homes to be used for rental purposes. This did not pass this year, but with advances in technology and more businesses using the web to secure clientele and business, I’m sure it will be back in the near future.
- Senator Iwamoto presented SB165, it was an effort to reduce grocery bag waste by encouraging patrons to use reusable bags. Patrons wanting a grocery bag would have been charged a 10 cent per bag fee. Plastic bags are not an item that recycling centers allow. If sent for recycling, they can cause damage when caught in the recycling equipment. The proper way to recycle plastic bags is to put them in designated bins at grocery stores.
- HB300 was known as the body camera bill. It passed after many amendments and compromises. The primary objective of this legislation was to protect the privacy of people in their own homes if police officers enter a home using a body camera. Most cities already had policies in place to protect the rights of its residents, but this created an equal standard for all agencies to follow. As a side note, Murray City police officers have used body cameras since 2013.

We are very fortunate to have such dedicated senators and representatives at the Utah State Legislature. They truly have our best interest as they consider hundreds of bills. We also had a

team comprised of Kory Holdaway, John Rock, Dave Stewart and the Utah League of Cities and Towns that worked on our behalf daily while the Legislature was in session.

As you can see, we have many people both inside our city government and outside councils that work to make our city a community that we can all be proud of.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ted Eyre". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ted" and last name "Eyre" clearly distinguishable.

Ted Eyre, Mayor